

Yeager Building
329-331 Adams Street
Fairmont
Marion County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-133

HABS
LVA,
25-FAIR
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA , PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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YEAGER BUILDING

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Location: 329-331 Adams Street
Fairmont
Marion County
West Virginia

North of U.S. Route 19 north, approximately 300 feet
northeast of the Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, Marion
County, West Virginia.

USGS Fairmont West Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.573780.4370780

Present Owner: City of Fairmont
P. O. Box 1428
Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

Present Use: Vacant

Demolition scheduled: Summer, 1985

Statement of
Significance:

The Yeager Building is a distinctive example of late 19th
Century commercial architecture. Its eclectic front shows both
classical and Romanesque revival influences.

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1895
2. Architect: Not known
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Clerk's Office of the County of Marion, West Virginia. Even though it is possible to move freely within the two sections of the Yeager Building, each part of it was owned separately.

329 Adams Street

- 1983 June 24, 1983 in Deed Book 847, page 814
Bess and Bess Golden (widows of Julius and Israel)
To
City of Fairmont
- 1931 June 1, 1931 in Deed Book 306, page 566
Thomas J. Galliher et al
To
Julius and Israel Golden
- 1911 October 7, 1911 in Deed Book 178, page 464
D. N. Snider and wife
To
Thomas J. Galliher
- 1884 December 12, 1884 in Deed Book 37, page 230
Calvin Arnett and others
To
D. N. and Mary J. Snider
(This deed refers to the building on the next lot but it implies that there is no building on the Golden Brothers site as of this date.)
- 1883 December 6, 1883 in Deed Book 35, page 202
Benjamin Swisher and wife, Thomas B. Carpenter and wife
To
Calvin Arnett and others

331 Adams Street

- 1983 July 18, 1983 in Deed Book 848, page 367
Virginia Dent Timbers

To
City of Fairmont

- 1976 April 27, 1976 in Will Book 60, page 815
Farah B. Dent (partial interest)
to Virginia Timbers
- 1964 April 13, 1964 in Will Book 39, page 294
Jessie Dent Timbers (partial interest)
To
Virginia Timbers
- 1939 March 2, 1939 in Will Book 347, page 44
Virginia Dent Timbers
To
Jessie Dent Timbers
- 1924 May 13, 1924 in Will Book 8, page 68
Ora B. Dent
To
Virginia Dent Timbers
- 1922 January 4, 1922 in Will Book 7, page 248
George G. Yeager
To
Ora Dent (his cousin)
- 1902 April 1, 1902 in Deed Book 114, page 49
M. E. Yeager
To
George Yeager (son of M. E. Yeager)
- 1899 July 14, 1899 in Deed Book 89, page 26
George Yeager
To
M. E. Yeager
- 1893 January 16, 1893 in Deed Book 60, page 204
Thomas Carpenter and wife
To
George G. and Samuel S. Yeager
- 1876 June 17, 1876 in Deed Book 26, page 285
Thomas T. Brock (partial)
To
Thomas B. Carpenter and Benjamin T. Swisher
- 1876 May 8, 1876 in Deed Book 26, page 239
Thomas Pendergast (partial)
To

Thomas B. Carpenter and Benjamin T. Swisher

4. Alterations and Additions: The first story facade alterations on the Adams Street side of the building are of cararra glass, a 1930's period glass.

B. Historical Context:

From 1979-1922, 329-331 Adams Street was open to the public as the Golden Brothers Department Store. In 1921, 329 Adams Street, only, was occupied by the Golden Brothers Department Store. Between 1921 and 1915, it was also occupied by The McCray System, Inc., an outdoor advertising firm, Richard E. McCray, a dentist, and Galliher's Clothier. In 1906, E. C. Jones Department Store was opened and prior to that time, Yeagers' had a clothing store.

329-331 Adams Street is located within a block of the small hotel district, including the Madison Hotel. It is one city block from the Marion County Courthouse in Fairmont, West Virginia.

PART 11. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Yeager Building is a late 19th Century commercial structure and the only commercial building remaining with Romanesque features in downtown Fairmont.
2. Condition of fabric: As of 1984, the structural pillars and foundation did not display structural deficiencies.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The Yeager Building is a three-story structure with a basement and measures 49' x 82.5'.
2. Foundation: stone.
3. Wall construction: Exterior walls are made of red pressed brick with sandstone lintels.
4. Structural systems, framing: Walls are all load bearing except curtain walls around bathroom. The floors are of joist construction with plywood and linoleum tile. The roof is flat and wood framed.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The Adams Street side of the building has four doors.
- b. Windows and shutters: The Adams Street side of the building has 14 windows (including the six sections of the arched window) and five ground-floor store windows. The main window is a two story arched motif, the apex of which displays a fan light window arrangement. The pressed metal spandrels on the front elevation form part of the arched window. There are sandstone lintels and sills on the side elevation; third story windows are brick-arched.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: No specific floor plan information is available.

- b. First floor-fourth floor: Floor plan drawings are attached.

2. Stairways: Wooden

3. Flooring: Basement of 329 Adams Street is dirt and that of 331 Adams Street is wood. The upper floors are made of wood, which was visible under nine inch deteriorated asphalt tiles.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls are plaster; ceilings on first and second floor are plaster. The third floor has a metal embossed ceiling.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: The Yeager Building faces a south south easterly direction. It is on Adams Street which is the main street of downtown Fairmont and serves as a connecting link between Routes 250 and 19 and Route 19 North.

PART 111. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: None known.
- B. Historic Views: A magazine photograph, page 32, in Industrial Fairmont in 1908, referenced below, shows the Yeager Building when it was known as E. C. Jones Department Store.
- C. Interviews: Rodney S. Collins, Director, Historical Preservation Unit, Department of Culture and History, Charleston, West Virginia, February 7 and 8 and March 19 and 21, 1985.
- D. Bibliography:
1. Deed Books, Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, West Virginia.
 2. Will Books, Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, West Virginia
 3. Greater Fairmont City Directory, (various years), R.L. Polk & Company, Publishers, 2910 W. Clay Street, P.O. Box 27546, Richmond, Virginia, 23261.
 4. Industrial Fairmont in 1908, Industrial Edition of the Fairmont, West Virginian, compiled and edited by G. A. Michell, located in Rare Book Room, Fairmont State College Library, Fairmont, West Virginia.
 5. Building Inspection Report for Golden Brothers Building, November, 1984. Prepared by Widner Engineers, Inc., Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.
- E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: 1) early editions of Fairmont newspaper, known as the "Old Index" 2) possible future book by local historian, Glenn Lough.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This building is part of a downtown improvement project to clear blighted property that has not been occupied or repaired for several years and to create parking to replace parking space that will be taken by new construction in the City of Fairmont. Community Development Block Grant funds (FY'84) were received to complete this activity, including demolition of the Yeager Building.

Prepared by: Gina Coletta, Community
Planning and Development
Director;

and

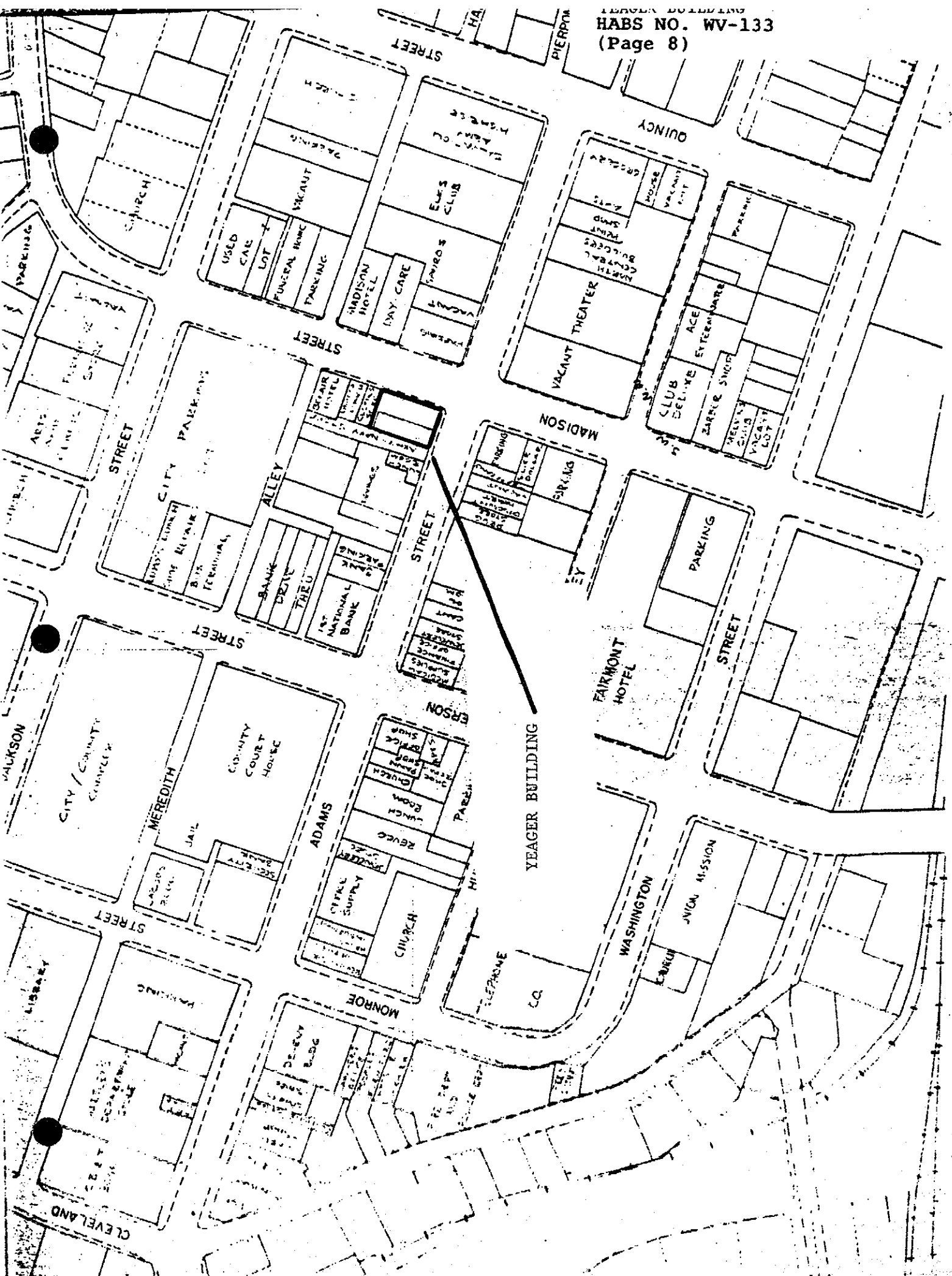
Richard Schapperle, Housing
Rehabilitation Specialist;

and

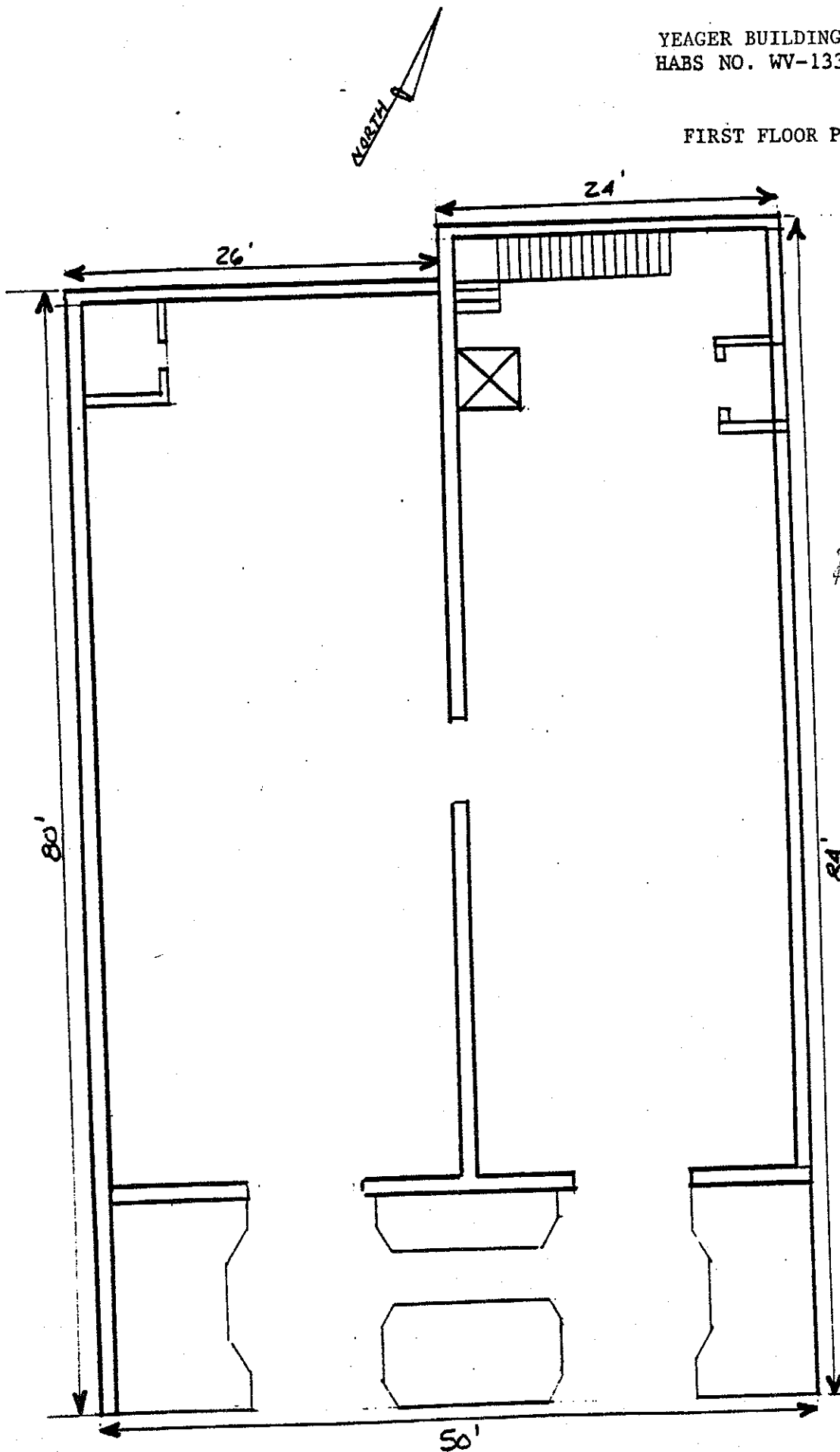
Robert T. Grimm, Administrative Assistant

Affiliation: City of Fairmont,
West Virginia

Date: April, 1985



FIRST FLOOR PLAN (1985)



1st floor
plan
April 26, '85

MADISON STREET

ADAMS STREET

PLAN OF UPPER FLOORS (1985)

